

their sacrifice, they deserve our most profound respect and gratitude.

It is the willingness of citizens then and now taking individual responsibility in our Nation's defense that is the ultimate guarantee of our security and freedom. The terrorists who perpetrated the attacks of September 11 underestimated us. Since September 11, the Nation has not fallen apart, it has pulled together, confident in our traditions of freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

Today, our armed forces are in the field defending our liberties against the terrorist threat. We have the finest fighting force in the world, and they are doing a tremendous job. At home our first responders—firefighters, emergency medical and ambulance services, law enforcement, and National Guard—are being called upon for more homeland security. I am confident that we will prevail and become even stronger as a Nation.

This Memorial Day, as we celebrate those who gave their lives, we should also pause to consider the veterans among us who have contributed so much and who are such an important part of our communities. As one who had a brother killed in the line of duty in Asia and as a former Air Force officer myself, I understand the sacrifices that our service men and women and their families make.

The bills we are voting on today are designed to increase employment opportunities for veterans, improve VA facilities, and provide needed cost-of-living increases for disability compensation. There is more that we need to do to improve the way the VA does business. We need to ensure that veterans' disability claims are processed quickly and accurately, that health care delivery is improved by coordinating the medical care systems of VA and the Department of Defense, and that resources are focused on treating disabled and low-income veterans. Under the leadership of President Bush and VA Secretary Principi, I believe we are going to make significant improvements in the delivery of veterans benefits.

Over the years, our military veterans have kept faith with their country in times of need. With these bills, we will be helping to keep faith with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING MR. JARRED M.
LINDLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and commitment of Mr. Jarred M. Lindley.

Mr. Lindley is a recent graduate of Savannah High School in Savannah, Missouri, who had perfect attendance throughout his 13 Years of public education. Remarkably, Mr. Lindley also was not tardy from any event, even once, in those 13 years. Mr. Lindley, set this goal when he was an elementary student and would not take credit for his accomplishment until the final day of his senior year was complete. I am honored to have Mr. Lindley living in the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Along with Jarred Lindley's parents, Sherry and Michael, family, and friends, I take pride in what he has accomplished.

I commend Mr. Lindley for his dedication in reaching his perfect attendance record. Additionally, he is graduating in the top five percent of his class, and is a member of the gold team, honor society, band, as well as holding down a part time job after school.

I again want to congratulate Mr. Jarred Lindley for his accomplishment. He makes the Sixth District and All Americans very proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS COUNCIL

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to present the unique culture of Metro Detroit to distinguished visitors from around the world through its social, economic, and educational diversity. This year, as the International Visitors Council held their annual Gala Celebration, they also celebrated their 30th Anniversary on May 17, 2002.

Since 1972, the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit has demonstrated distinguished service and leadership in establishing cross-culture relations and building solid networks of communication at the personal and professional level. As "citizen diplomats" faithfully committed to the mission of the International Visitors Council, volunteers dedicate their time and talents to hosting meetings, fundraisers and receptions for Detroit citizens and honorable guests from around the world. Opening their homes and hearts to international visitors from Europe, Asia and Africa, they take it upon themselves to ensure that visitors leave Detroit with a positive impression of the city and its citizenry.

Creating dialogue and building bridges of understanding is the only way to ensure the advancement of communities built on respect and justice. Today the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit is one of 96 councils in the nationwide network of the National Council of International Visitors, welcoming over 12,000 international visitors during the last three decades. The hard work and dedication of the International Visitors Council of Detroit to achieving its mission of building solid friendships and improving relations between the United States and other countries is truly exceptional, and encourages others to reach their level of activism and understanding.

I applaud the International Visitors Council of Metropolitan Detroit on their leadership and commitment, and I congratulate them on 30 outstanding years of dedication and service. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of public service.

KENT CITY QUIZ BOWL WINS
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2002 Kent City Community High

School Quiz Bowl team for winning the 2002 Michigan Class "C & D" Quiz Bowl Championship with a perfect 6-0 record during the two-day state tournament. This marks the second time in three years that the Kent City Eagles have claimed the championship.

Members of the 2002 State Championship team include: Mike Cheyne, Jerry Urban, John Hersey, A. J. DeGroot, Josh Whitehead, Joe Postema, Jared Brown, Andy Lerch, Matt Nixon, Brandon Stout, Robert Nyblad, Justin Waller, Dan Ondersma and Isaac Owens. Government teacher Sid Smith, who serves as the coach of this talented squad, should also be commended for his outstanding work in preparing the students for competition.

On the way to their second championship, the Eagles compiled a remarkable 46-7 record, often against much larger schools. To illustrate how much the Eagles dominated most of their competition throughout the year, I note that six of their seven losses were to Class "A" Quiz Bowl Champion Detroit Catholic Central, Class "B" Champion Detroit Country Day and Class "A" runner-up, Hartland.

The team will now compete on the national level as they take part in the National Academic Quiz Tournament in Austin, Texas on June 8 and 9 and the Partnership for Academic Excellence Nationals in Washington, D.C., on June 15 and 16. I have no doubt that these outstanding young men will serve as wonderful representatives for Kent City, the State of Michigan, and the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these students who have put Kent City, Michigan on the Quiz Bowl map. Congratulations on an outstanding season, and I wish you continued success in the upcoming national competitions!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in New York on May 20, 2002, and missed roll call votes 171, 172, and 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call 171, "aye" on roll call 172, and "aye" on roll call 173.

COMMENDING HON. RAFA HEATH
CLOE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished career of the Honorable Rafe Heath Cloe, United States Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Social Security Administration, Birmingham, AL. Judge Cloe served for more than 15 years as a senior trial attorney for the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. He has served in the United States Air Force, active and reserve duty, retiring as Colonel with the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and also serving as an instructor at the Air Force Law School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama.